

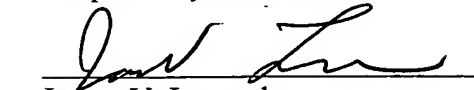
REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments and the references cited in the above-identified Office Action. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-7 as being obvious over the combination of the Flory reference, U.S. 4,361,165, and the Wood reference, U.S. 1,778,477. Claims 1 and 4-7 have been amended to more distinctly point out applicants' invention and to recite terminology used in the specification. Claims 1 and 4-7, as amended, are now considered to be in allowable form.

The Examiner's proposed combination characterizes the stud 52 of uniform cross-section (except for a non-functional head portion) in Flory as a rupture disc member and the shear pin 15 of Wood (that is stressed by relative rotation of two movable elements that the shear pin couples) as a rupture disc member. Certainly, the Examiner has not established any basis for a proposed combination of shear pins as being suggestive of rupture disc members or disc-shaped members being loaded in shear and having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross-section as recited in applicants' claims 1 and 7, as amended. Further, there is nothing in Flory to suggest using any elements of reduced cross-section. What suggestion is there to use the pin 15 of Wood that directly couples two rotating parts in the arrangement of Flory to replace a stud 52 of uniform cross-section that in turn holds a split collar 40 that couples two shafts 36 and 58? Thus, claims 1 and 7, as amended, are considered to be in allowable form. Claims 4-6 depending from claim 1 recite additional features of Applicants' invention and are also considered to be allowable.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-7, as amended and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,


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